

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN Idaho

REFUGEES IN IDAHO

The United States has been a leader in welcoming [refugees](#) who seek safety from persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Following World War II, the U.S. began welcoming refugees and over time the system has evolved to have a strong infrastructure centered on [public-private partnerships](#). Communities across the U.S. have recognized the important economic and social benefits of resettling refugees. Idaho residents have played a vital role in the resettlement program and refugees have positively contributed to New Hampshire communities. In 2016, organizations and communities across [Idaho](#) welcomed [1% of refugees arriving in the U.S.](#) In 2016, Idaho welcomed 1,135 refugees and 39 unaccompanied children who were released to the care and custody of sponsors.

Where are most refugees in Idaho from?

Dem. Rep. Congo
Iraq
Syria
Bhutan

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO REFUGEES IN IDAHO

In addition to [programming](#) to support refugees when they first arrive to the United States, the federal government provides monetary aid through grants to the state, Voluntary Agencies, and other refugee aid organizations for community and short-term refugee support. [Jannus Inc.](#) serves as the refugee resettlement office for the state. Primary program services include cash and medical assistance, access to English language classes, vocational and employment assistance. [Discretionary grants](#) are also awarded to private agencies for various other self-sufficiency programs.

FEDERAL FY16 ORR FUNDING TO IDAHO FOR REFUGEE PROGRAMS

Total	Cash & Medical Assistance	Wilson/Fish Obligation	Refugee Social Services	School Impact	State Targeted Assistance	Targeted Assistance Discretionary	Services to Older Refugees	Microenterprise Development	Refugee Family Child Care Microenterprise	Individual Development Account	Survivors of Torture Grant	Refugee Health Promotion
\$6,579,715	\$1,950,000	\$2,304,414	\$722,234	\$219,215	\$289,472	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$125,000	\$187,500	\$200,000	\$256,880	\$100,000

Another service available to refugees in Idaho is the employment [Matching Grant Services](#), administered by Voluntary Agencies in the state. An alternative to public cash assistance, private agencies match federal contributions and provide intensive case management services to help refugees get employed and become self-sufficient within 120 days of arrival.

"Amina's success is a testimony to how rural women achieving self sufficiency helps them and their communities"

-Office of Refugee Resettlement

REFUGEES MAKE IDAHO STRONG

"Mother of eight children, [Amina Mohamud](#) fled her home in Somalia at age 19 due to ethnic persecution. She spent nine years in refugee camps in Kenya until her family was resettled to Boise in 2005. In 2010, she began working in her husband Yussuf's plot, part of the Idaho Office of Refugees' Global Gardens project, funded by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). Amina sold the family's produce at the local farmers' market. In 2011, she decided to cultivate her own plot after receiving grant assistance from ORR's Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program (RAPP). With help from her children, Amina produced vegetables for the weekly Capital City Public Market, Global Gardens' CSA (community supported agriculture), and several wholesale customers.

She learned to grow, harvest, wash and package vegetables and can now complete her harvest by herself and deliver the produce to storage. While running this business, she has improved her English, math and driving skills. What's more, Amina decided to use her cooking skills to increase the revenue from the farm. With Global Gardens' help, she secured a small business loan to buy a fryer and now sells homemade African sambusas at the farmers' market. She can sell sambusas after the growing season, thus extending her income into the fall and winter months."

LOCAL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OFFICES AND AFFILIATES IN IDAHO

- **EMM, Agency For New Americans**, Boise
- **IRC, International Rescue Committee**, Boise
- **USCRI, College Of Southern Idaho Refugee Programs**, Twin Falls

In addition to these agencies, many ethnic community-based organizations (ECBOs) exist throughout the state to help various refugee communities integrate and succeed in their new homes. These organizations are run by refugees to aid in the resettlement of fellow refugees by providing a variety of direct services, increasing civic participation, and preserve the community's cultural identity and history.